

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. to 20. (canceled)

21. (new) A sealing compound comprising a blend of:
- a) an oxygen scavenger comprising a material selected from the group consisting of:
 - i) an oxidizable compound and a transition metal salt,
 - ii) an ethylenically unsaturated hydrocarbon and a transition metal catalyst,
 - iii) an ascorbate,
 - iv) an isoascorbate,
 - v) a sulfite,
 - vi) an ascorbate and a transition metal catalyst, the catalyst comprising a simple metal or salt, or a compound, complex or chelate of the transition metal,
 - vii) a reduced form of a quinone, a photoreducible dye, or a carbonyl compound which has absorbance in the UV spectrum, and
 - viii) a tannin; and
 - b) an amorphous silica;
- wherein the amorphous silica has:
- (i) a mean pore diameter of less than 200 Angstroms,
 - (ii) a median particle size of less than 20 μm , and
 - (iii) a surface area of greater than 200 m^2/gram .

22. (new) The sealing compound of claim 21 wherein the sealing compound comprises a blend of between 95% and 99.5 % oxygen scavenger, and between 0.5% and 5% amorphous silica.

23. (new) The sealing compound of claim 21 wherein the sealing compound is in the form of a gasket.

24. (new) The gasket of claim 23 wherein the gasket adheres a lid to a rigid or semi-rigid container.